In the Claims, please amended the pending claims as follows:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A recombinant adenoviral vector comprising a deletion in the E1b region, said deletion comprising at least a portion of the E1b 55K region gene and an E1b region genc selected from the group consisting of p19 or pIX, but retaining the E1b promoter, and substituting for said deletion a heterologous gene such that the heterologous gene has a similar temporal expression pattern as the deleted E1b region gene, and said heterologous gene having the further property of encoding a protein that has anti-tumor activity and that is operably linked to said E1b promoter.

Claim 2 (currently amended): The adenoviral vector as described in claim 1 wherein said deletion of said E1b region gene consists of said p19 gene.

Claim 3 (currently amended): The adenoviral vector as described in claim 1 wherein said deletion of said E1b region gene consists of the p19 and pIX gencs.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The adenoviral vector as described in claim 1 wherein said deletion in the E1b region further comprises E1b 55K, p19, and pIX genes.

Claim 5 (previously amended): A recombinant adenoviral vector selected from the group consisting of ΔKmTNF, ΔE1B/CD and Δ55K/CD.

Claim 6 (currently amended): The recombinant adenoviral vector as described in claim 1 wherein said heterologous gene encodes a protein selected from the group consisting of tumor necrosis factor alpha, interferon gamma, an interleukin, a cell suicide protein, cytosine deaminase, thymidine kinase and mip-3.

Claim 7 (currently amended): Cells comprising said adenoviral vectors of claim 1.

Claim 8 (original): Cells comprising said adenoviral vect rs of claim 5.

Claim 9 (original): Cells comprising said adenoviral vectors of claim 6.

Claim 10 (currently): A method for directly treating a mammal's neoplastic condition in a mammal in need of said treatment, comprising administering to said mammal a therapeutically effective dose of said adenoviral vectors of claims 1, 5, or 6.

Claim 11 (previously amended): The method as described in claim 10 further comprising administering with said adenoviral vectors a chemotherapeutic or an immunosuppressive agent.

Claim 12 (previously amended): A replication competent, recombinant adenovirus selected from the group consisting of ΔKmTNF, ΔE1B/CD and Δ55K/CD.

Claim 13 (previously presented): A recombinant plasmid selected from the group consisting of pΔKmTNF, pΔE1B/CD, and pΔ55K/CD.

Claim 14 (previously presented): A recombinant plasmid selected from the group consisting of pΔE1B, pΔE1B/55K, and pΔE1B/pIX.

Claim 15. Please cancel